



Speech by

**LINDA LAVARCH**

**STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Hansard 22 April 2004

#### **PETRIE SCOUT DEN**

**Mrs LAVARCH** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): A local scout den is not normally found on a list of a district's most imposing buildings. Until recently this could have been said of the Petrie scout den in Kurwongbah electorate. The den, formerly a dull green building blending into its bush surroundings, was a regular target for graffiti vandals. The attacks on the hut were constant, but school holidays in particular were a bad time for the scout group. Graffiti and tagging attacks turned the hut into an eye sore as well as costing the scout's committee a lot of time, energy and money repainting it again and again.

The graffiti taskforce, which I had the honour of chairing in the last parliament, came to the conclusion that legal murals painted on frequently targeted walls was one strategy of deterring taggers and graffiti attacks. The Petrie scout group took this theory on board and asked for community assistance in combating the problem. Super Cheap Auto at Lawnton answered the call, making a generous donation to the scout group.

Local artists Rodney O'Neill and Matthew Cooke painted the mural, a beautiful work of art featuring jungle theme and characters from *The Jungle Book*. The den's green exterior walls are daubed with beautiful pictures of trees, waterways and Baloo and Mowgli. Word of Rodney's talent is spreading since he contributed to the scout den's mural. He is a year 12 student at Dakabin State High School and has been commissioned to paint a mural at the school. He eventually wants to make a living with his art. Looking at his beautiful work, it is obvious that he has got what it takes. I am delighted to advise that he was last month's winner of the *Quest Newspaper's* young star award, a most deserving recipient.

The den is located off the beaten track in Beeville Road in Petrie, making it a well hidden target for the attacks. Since the mural was painted on the wall, the graffiti and tags have stopped.

Time expired.